



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Deboer et al.

) Group Art Unit 2824

Appl. No. : 10/714,688

Filed : November 17, 2003

For : METHOD AND STRUCTURE  
FOR REDUCING CONTACT  
ASPECT RATIOS

Examiner : Bradley Smith

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all  
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Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-  
1450, on

June 7, 2004

(Date)

Adeel S. Akhtar, Reg. No. 41,394

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**  
**AND ELECTION OF SPECIES**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In an action mailed May 19, 2004, the Examiner required restriction of prosecution to one of the following species of claims:

Species 1: drawn to forming an electrical contact between two levels of the circuit.

Species 2: drawn to forming a contact adjacent electrical devices.

In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, to proceed with examination on the merits of Species 1 (Claims 1-17), drawn to forming an electrical contact between two levels of a circuit.

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**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for examination on the merits, and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: June 7, 2004

By: Adeel S. Akhtar

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